

Simone Bedard          April 13, 1972

1. Albert Babineau
4.     9 North Ave
5.     679-5758
7.     I was born in Hamsdole New Hampshire U.S.A.
8.     My father was born in St. John N.B. I can't remember where my mother was born
9.     Before we came to Cobalt, my family was living at St. Eugene de Guigues in Temiskaming Quebec. I came to work in Cobalt in 1910 as a younger man
10.    My family came to Cobalt in 1914. I was married to Clara Lamirande in 1912 at St. Eugene de Guigues, and I moved to Cobalt in 1914.
12.    We moved by horse and sleigh and came to Cobalt
13.    We had one child
14.    My first job in Cobalt was at the Nipissing mine
16.    Retired
17.    I remember many times during the war when I came across Lake Temiskaming to Haileybury by boat, there were army officers who were at the dock and they would stop men and then they would bring them to the army barracks to enlist them in the army. I was also stopped, but I was a farmer at the time and also an American citizen so they had to release me, I was never taken to the barracks as I always had my American citizen papers on me, and once they'd see them they would release me.
18.    My impressions of Cobalt were good, it was very big, there were lots of mines and all sorts of work
20.    I came to Cobalt because the wages were very good. There was a choice of work. You could work in the mines, or as carpenters, building contractors, blacksmith and others.
22.    When I came here, we worked 10 hrs, a day
23.    Before I came to Cobalt I was working on a farm for \$1.00 a day and at the Colonial Mine I was getting \$3.75 a day on a machine
24.    I lived on the north end of Lang St. by the bridge in a frame house; we had a kitchen and one bedroom downstairs and 2 bedrooms upstairs.
25.    Friends and relatives would get together and we'd go from house to house and celebrate
26.    We had tap water and electricity
28.    A wood stove
29.    Quebec heater and we burned wood or coal
30.    There were all kinds of stores.
31.    The arena, theaters, there was a play ground in West Cobalt. Where the town water reservoir is, there was a ski toe that went down to Sass Lake and the road passed under this.
32.    I liked roller skating
35.    Horse and buggy and streetcars
36.    I had Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Joyal as doctors.
37.    My wife was the first woman patient in the Cobalt Miners Hospital, and the reason an operation.
38.    My first child was born in St. Eugene de Guigues, Quebec

39. Imelda went to the convent in Haileybury and when she quit she stayed home with my wife.
- Lionel went to Ste. Therese School here and then went on with his studies in a college in Montreal. Then he worked in the mines here
41. Everything was done by hand
42. They had hand steeling and hand mucking and also baseball games
43. The mines had cookeries and bunk houses for those who lived out of town, and the men would come up for lunch and they had an hour for lunch. The ones who lived in town brought their lunches
44. Supper was the families main meal and they would have potatoes, meat vegetables pies, cake, and desserts of all kinds
45. The same as today
46. We'd go to low mass before anything else, then we'd go visiting, fishing or go swimming at Peterson Lake
47. Men wore hats more than they do today and they would wear suits, ties, shirts, and dress pants.
49. I've spent most of my life here and to me its home
51. The museum is something that I find very interesting and I've often taken some of my visitors to see it, the arena is also a place I enjoy
57. I prefer Summer most as I love to go fishing
58. I attend the euchre parties at Ste. Therese School during the Winter and I also love to go to bingos
59. Cooking is my hobby and I like to try different recipes.
60. What we need is a factory that would employ men year round
62. The museum is a very good thing .Some people have never seen minerals
62. There are all kinds to be seen at museum.

My father—in—law Mr. Joe Lamirande had a boarding house and a small confectionery and he also sold water and wood from house to house, later he was making timber for the mines. I remember there was a small building next to the Imperial Bank and they had a blackboard outside with all the job listings, if we were looking for work we would go there and If there was work that we were interested in, we'd enter the building and pay \$1.00 and the man who was taking care of these listings would give us a card and tell us where to go for the job and then we'd get hired. When I was a younger man I loved to go roller skating at the arena and they played the electric organ while we skated. I would rent my skates by the month and the young fellow who was taking care of the skates would put my name on a tag and tie them to the skates, whenever I wanted to skate I always had my skates. Mr. Brewer had a livery stable and you could rent a horse and buggy, or a team and express and he also had cabs these were something like coaches. We had four banks here at one time the Imperial Bank, Nova Scotia, Commerce; the Bank of Toronto was in the Fraser Hotel where the men's beverage room is today. Mr. Deault had a blacksmith shop and he'd shoe horses and he would even make harnesses for horses.